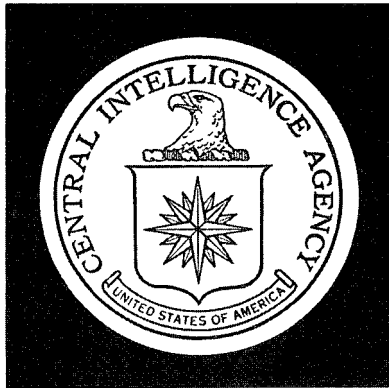


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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

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Information as of 1600
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HIGHLIGHTS

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I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:
Two new US Army operations were initiated yesterday. (Paras. 1-3). Twenty-two enemy troops were killed in three separate US Marine actions in Quang Nam Province (Paras. 4-5). South Korean units reported killing 23 Communists in Quang Ngai Province on 1 February (Para. 6). Two South Vietnamese Army operations ended yesterday in the Mekong Delta (Paras. 7-8). Weekly review of South Vietnam battle statistics (Paras. 9-10).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:
The Constituent Assembly dealt with the organization and election of the upper house of the future national legislature in sessions on 31 January and 1 February (Paras. 1-3). Chief of State Thieu recently sent a formal letter to assembly president Phan Khac Suu containing Directorate suggestions for the constitution, most of which relate to the authority of the future legislature (Paras. 4-5).

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V. Communist Political Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

VI. Other Major Aspects: Additional information on Viet Cong use of Cambodian territory has been disclosed in two captured documents (Paras. 1-3).

ANNEX:

South Vietnam Battle Statistics

1963 through the week of 22-28 Jan 67

-Weapons and Personnel Losses

-Viet Cong Attacks and Incidents

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. US combat forces are participating in 13 of the 26 battalion-size or larger allied ground operations currently in progress throughout South Vietnam. Only light and sporadic contact has been reported between allied and Communist forces on 1 February.

2. Operation WILLISTON, a route clearance-and-security operation, began on 2 February along Route 13 from Saigon to a point about 60 miles north of the city. Eleven US Army battalions have been deployed to clear, secure, and improve Route 13 in Binh Duong and Binh Long provinces for US and South Vietnamese convoy movements. One Viet Cong battalion--estimated to total 200 men--is believed operating along portions of this vital highway but as many as 5,000 enemy troops are reported to be within six miles of the area of operation.

3. Six US Army battalions began search-and-destroy Operation GADSDEN on 2 February in northwestern Tay Ninh Province to locate and destroy Communist forces and base camps in the western portion of Communist War Zone "C." Enemy forces located within the operational area number about 3,000. Another 3,000 enemy troops are reported in the northern part of Tay Ninh Province adjacent to this operation. No contact with enemy forces has been reported.

4. Fifteen Communist soldiers were killed in two separate actions involving small units of US Marines and North Vietnamese in Quang Nam Province on 31 January. Artillery fire was directed against the enemy in both engagements. Two Americans were killed and 11 wounded in these encounters, about 10 miles southwest of Da Nang.

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5. Also in Quang Nam Province, a US Marine patrol south of Da Nang encountered four Communist soldiers in a boat and three in defensive positions on the nearby shore. With the support of a US Marine tank, the patrol killed all seven of the enemy. There were no marine casualties.

6. Twenty-three enemy troops were reported killed in two separate engagements between South Korean and Communist units about eight miles northeast of Quang Ngai city in coastal Quang Ngai Province on 1 February. The South Koreans lost two killed and 11 wounded.

7. South Vietnamese Army (ARVN) Operation LONG PHI 999/A ended in the Mekong Delta province of Vinh Binh on 1 February. Final casualty figures show ARVN losses of two killed and 34 wounded. One US soldier was also wounded. Viet Cong losses totaled 51 killed, 16 captured, 11 suspects detained, and 14 weapons captured.

8. ARVN operation DAN CHI 275 in southern Bac Lieu Province ended on 1 February. This one-day search-and-destroy operation resulted in Viet Cong losses of 27 killed, and three prisoners, nine detainees, and 28 weapons captured. No friendly casualties were reported.

Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics

9. For the week ending on 28 January, the total number of Viet Cong - initiated incidents increased from 662 to 753. The I Corps Tactical Zone was the most active this week with more incidents in every category except sabotage. Representing a continuing trend, Quang Nam Province was high with 161 incidents.

10. The week of 22-28 January as compared with the week of 15-21 January:

I. Viet Cong Incidents

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>At-tacks</u>	<u>Regimental size</u>	<u>Battalion size</u>
15-21 Jan	50	0	0
22-28 Jan	17	0	0

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I. Viet Cong Incidents (continued)

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Company size</u>	<u>Harassment</u>	<u>Terrorism</u>
15-21 Jan	4	358	28
22-28 Jan	3	405	38

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Sabo-tage</u>	<u>Propa-ganda</u>	<u>Anti-Aircraft</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
15-21 Jan	15	32	179	662
22-28 Jan	14	28	251	753

II. Casualties

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>15-21 Jan</u>	<u>22-28 Jan</u>	<u>15-21 Jan</u>	<u>22-28 Jan</u>
Killed	1,683	979	340	157
Wounded	-----	---	731	403
Missing/ Captured	<u>311</u>	<u>203</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>17</u>
TOTALS	1,994	1,182	1,134	577

	<u>US</u>		<u>FREE WORLD</u>	
	<u>15-21 Jan</u>	<u>22-28 Jan</u>	<u>15-21 Jan</u>	<u>22-28 Jan</u>
Killed	121	131	11	15
Wounded	715	822	12	42
Missing/ Captured	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	841	959	23	57

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III. Weapons Captured

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>15-21 Jan</u>	<u>22-28 Jan</u>	<u>15-21 Jan</u>	<u>22-28 Jan</u>
Individual	741	Not	302	74
Crew-Served	<u>37</u>	Reported	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTALS	778		303	75

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. On 31 January and 1 February, the Constituent Assembly approved several provisions dealing with the election and organization of the upper house of the future national legislature. The upper house will include between 30 and 60 members who will serve six-year terms.

2. Delegates to the upper house will be elected at large throughout the country on lists rather than on an individual basis, with a plurality of votes sufficient to elect the entire list. This system was apparently selected by the assembly in order to encourage national political groupings or coalitions, and also perhaps to make the selection of the two legislative houses distinctly different.

3. The assembly was unable to agree on whether to allow the electorate to vote for more than one list, and left this decision to be worked out in the electoral law. It also deleted a draft provision which stipulated that ex-presidents of the new government become lifetime members of the upper house.

4. The assembly has some five more articles to consider before it begins to deal with the section on legislative authority, which has become a relatively significant issue. Meanwhile, Chief of State Thieu has sent a formal letter to assembly president Phan Khac Suu which outlines Directorate suggestions for the constitution. Most of the major Directorate proposals deal with aspects of legislative authority, including the deletion of most of the legislature's emergency powers, of its right to propose the dismissal of the cabinet, and of its broad investigative powers, all of which are now in the assembly's working draft. Some assembly leaders indicated earlier that they were prepared to compromise on these issues along the lines suggested by the Directorate.

5. However, some of the Directorate's other proposals deal with provisions which have already

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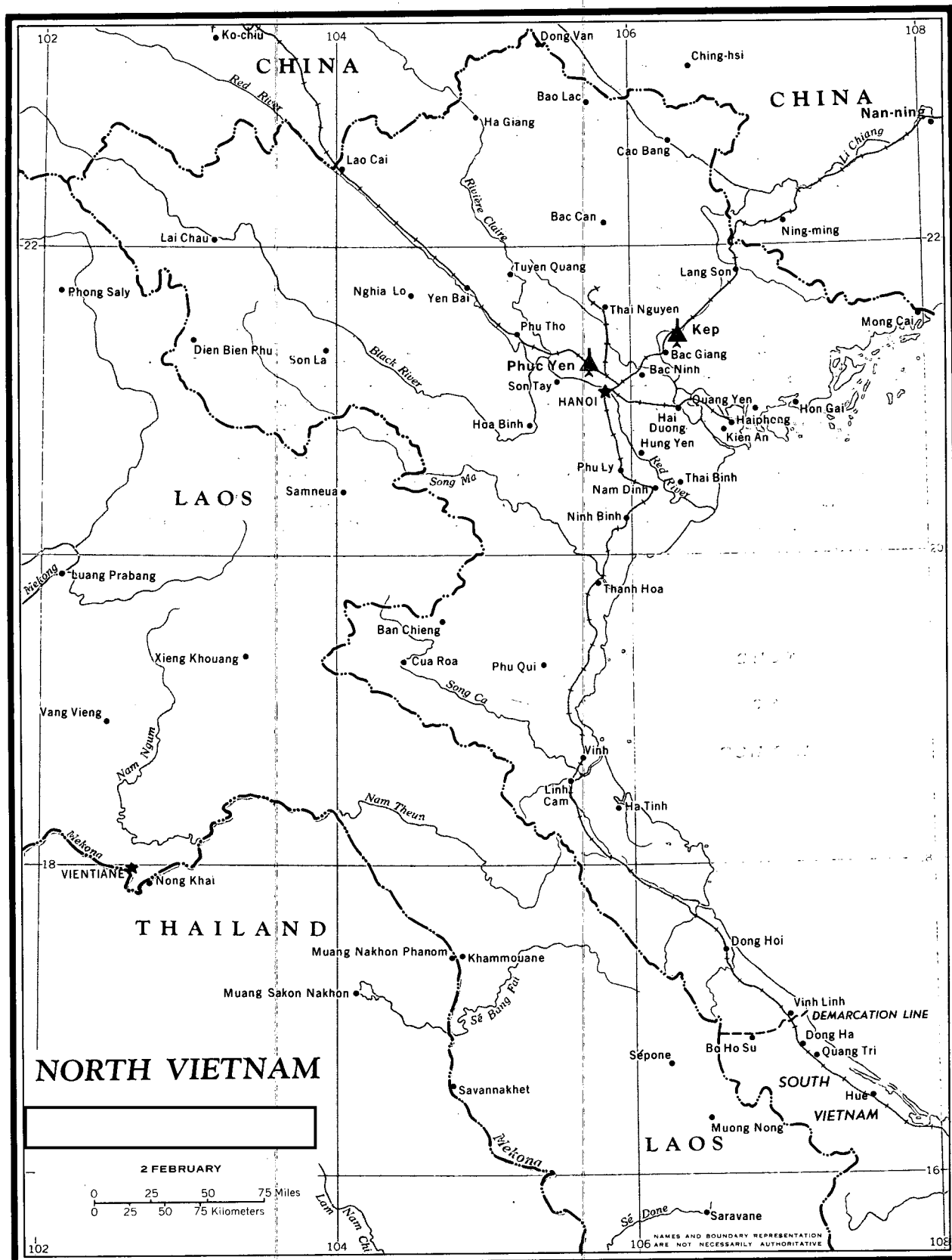
been approved by the assembly, and this could present somewhat of a problem. General Thieu's letter did not contain any suggestions concerning the executive or judicial branches, and further correspondence from the Directorate to the assembly may be forthcoming in the future.

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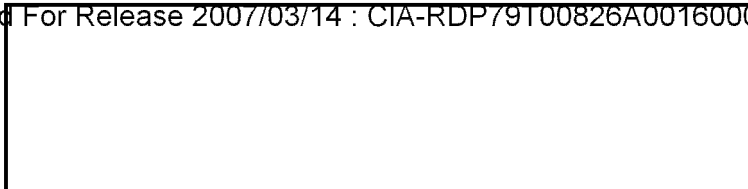
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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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VI. OTHER MAJOR ASPECTS

1. Additional information on Viet Cong use of Cambodian territory has been disclosed in two enemy documents captured in South Vietnam in late 1966. In one of the documents, the Communists reported that there have been instances in which Cambodian border forces refused to permit armed Viet Cong units to take sanctuary in Cambodia when they were pressed by South Vietnamese troops. The other document, alluding to unspecified difficulties with the Cambodians, instructed Viet Cong units to avoid contact with Cambodian border elements.

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2. The documents also reveal that, for the most part, the Viet Cong have established good working relations with Cambodian civilians and military personnel along the border. The Communists continue to stress the necessity, however, for taking precautions to ensure that their presence in Cambodia is as unobtrusive as possible. Elements are instructed, for example, to travel in small units and to disguise themselves as civilians when necessary.

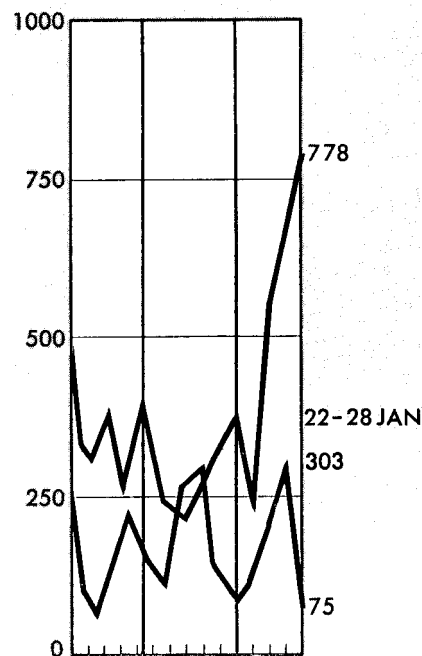
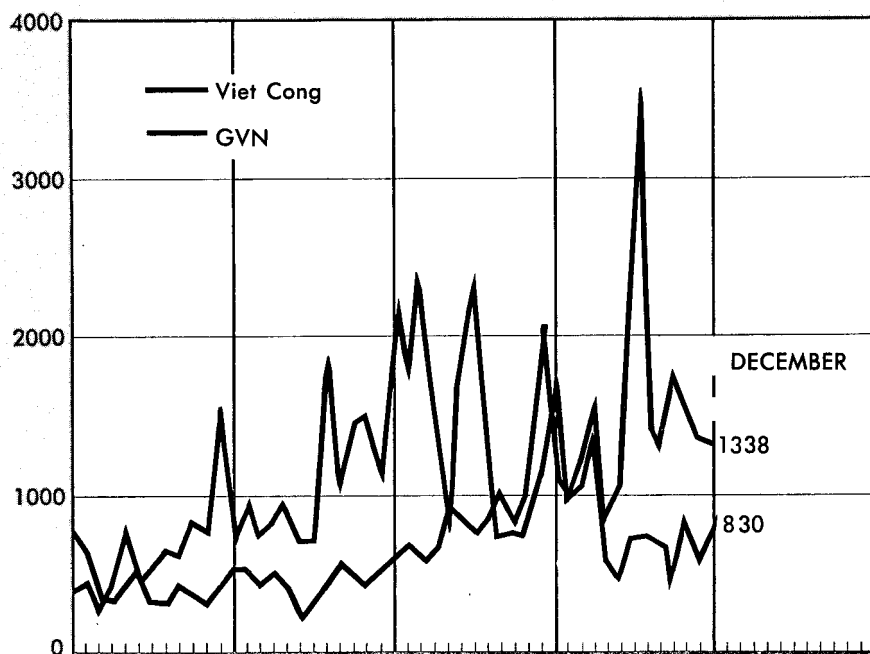
3. The documents also reveal that the Viet Cong attach some importance to maintaining good relations with ethnic Vietnamese residing in Cambodia, and that some effort is being made to persuade these people to return to South Vietnam.

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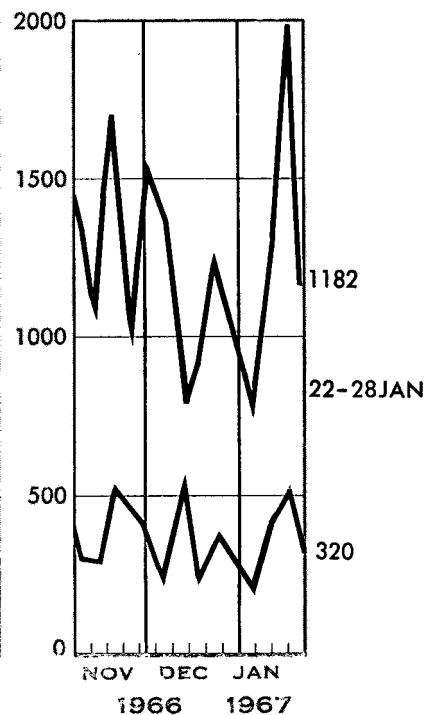
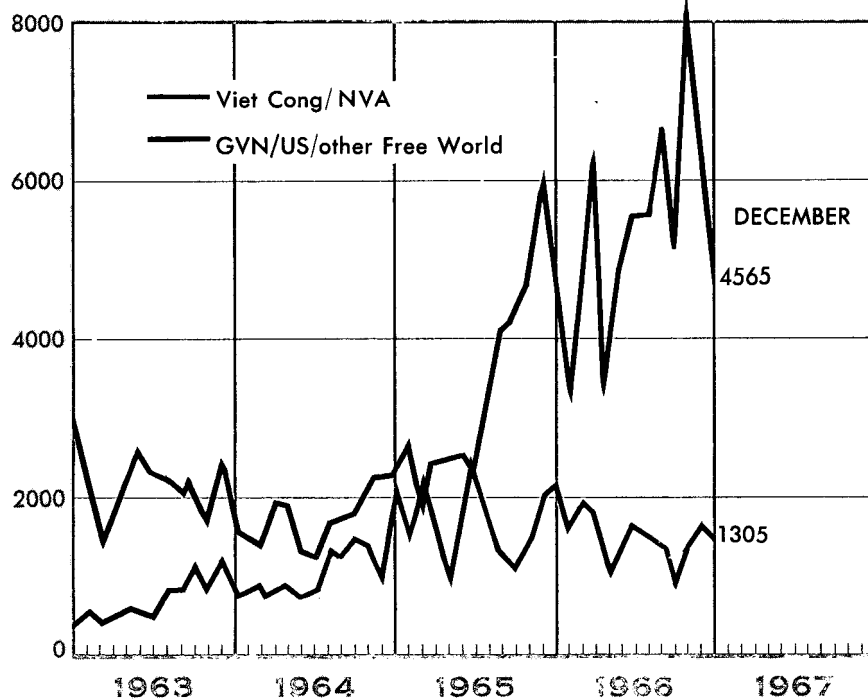
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Weapons Losses



Personnel Losses (Excluding Wounded)



US Casualties to Date: Killed 7,106 Wounded 40,674 Captured 99 Missing 380

